

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are rejected. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 1-9 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based upon the amendments to the claims and the remarks herein.

Dependent claim 3 has been objected to for informalities. In response, applicants have corrected that claims dependency upon claim 2 not claim 3.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 through 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicants have incorporated all of the limitations found in dependent claim 4 into the base claim.

Claim 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimmick et al. (US 6,623,188) in view of Miyamoto (US 6,865,348). In response, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 now stands allowed because applicants incorporated all allowed limitations found in dependent claim 4.

Specifically, neither reference Dimmick or Miyamoto teach or suggest a semiconductor optical amplifier unit wherein the a semiconductor optical amplification unit includes **a semiconductor optical amplifier and a DC coupling line to provide the semiconductor optical amplifier with the bias current**, as recited in the base claim.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection based upon the amendment to the base claims and the comments above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since

each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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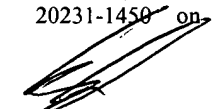
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